

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FILE

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Beardsley, Dr. Havilah, House
other names/site number Havilah Beardsley Mansion 039-186-80404

2. Location

street & number 102 West Beardsley Avenue N/A ☐ not for publication
city or town Elkhart N/A ☐ vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Elkhart 7 code 039 zip code 46514

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

- ☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

- ☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register

- ☐ removed from the National Register

- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Beardsley, Dr. Havilah, House

Name of Property

part IN

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

METAL: Aluminum

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Beardsley, Dr. Havilah, House

Name of Property

Elkhart IN

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1848 - 1875

Significant Dates

1848

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Beardsley, Havilah

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

Elkhart Public Library

Beardsley, Dr. Havilah, House
Name of Property

Elkhart IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

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4	6	1	6	0	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

4

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☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dana Kopkowski, Program Assistant
organization Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana date 2/16/99
street & number 520 East Colfax telephone 219-232-4534
city or town South Bend state IN zip code 46617

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name George and Darlene Adkins
street & number 102 West Beardsley Avenue telephone 219-295-6461
city or town Elkhart state IN zip code 46514

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Narrative Description

Summary

The Havilah Beardsley Mansion is located on the northwest corner of Beardsley Avenue and North Main Street in Elkhart. Situated across from the St. Joseph River, the house sits on a prominent corner as one crosses the Main Street Bridge going north. The original house, built in 1848 is symmetrical in arrangement and has a rectangular plan with additions. It has a medium pitch gable end roof with a chimney at each end. The Italianate style home combines classical elements. Features of the home include a full-width front porch with fluted columns topped by Ionic capitals, tall narrow double-hung sash windows, paired scroll-sawn brackets and dentils at the eaves. The foundation is stone, walls and chimneys are brick, and the surface decoration is wood. The roof has asphalt shingles which replaced slate shingles. Two, one-story wings were added on the east and west sides after the original house was built. The west wing was added shortly after construction to accommodate a larger family. It has flat, sloping roof and brackets and dentils at the eaves like the original house. The east wing was added circa 1875 as a grandmother's quarters. The wing also has flat roof, but does not have brackets and dentils repeated at the eaves. The rear of the original house includes the dining room, kitchen and storage area which was later changed to a garage. The interior of the Havilah Beardsley Mansion is highly decorative for a house of its period. Several kinds of woods were used such as mahogany, walnut and cherry. Plaster moldings believed to have been imported from Italy, etched glass, marble and slate are other materials used.

Front (South) Facade

The front facade faces south onto Beardsley Avenue across from the St. Joseph River. The original part or center of the house is divided into three bays. On the first floor, a central door is flanked by two windows on each side. The same layout is repeated on the second floor with a central window flanked by two windows on each side. Windows are recessed and have decorative wood surrounds. The double-hung sash windows are fully arched (photo 1). The arched entrance is a double-leaf door with beveled glass. At the top of each leaf, the glass forms a tear drop shape. Lining the recessed arch of the doorway are raised panels (photo 2). Fluted columns with Ionic capitals support the flat, overhanging porch roof. Paired columns are located at the center where the porch roof projects slightly at the front steps. A column is also located at each end (photos 3, 4). The fascia board on the porch has a band of dentil molding (photo 5). The porch floor is wood (photo 6). Originally the porch was smaller and was replaced by a large porch across the front in the late 1800's.

East Facade

The east facade faces North Main Street. The gable end repeats the use of brackets, dentils and decorative panels. Two second-story windows are fully arched, double-hung sashes. The east one-story wing is rectangular in shape and has a flat roof. Two smaller, rectangle windows are spaced evenly apart,

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one wider than the other (photo 8). Originally there was an entrance on the southeast corner of the east façade.

West Façade

The gable end of the second story repeats the use of the brackets, dentils, and decorative panels. One original window remains on the second-story and the other was replaced at one time with a casement window. The one-story wing is rectangular in shape and has a flat roof. Brackets, dentils and decorative panels are repeated on the wing. One fully arched window is located on the west façade of the wing (photo 9).

North Façade

The north façade of the east wing has two double-hung sash windows and a door that is located on the west side of the wing where it extends out from the original house. At the east end of the original house, a double-hung window is located at the second story and another below it on the first story. The central and west part of the north façade have a series of one-story original structures which include the original kitchen, storage area, and now garage. The central part of the original house projects out and includes a double-hung window on the second-story where the staircase landing is located on the interior. The first-story has a half-glass door used as a back entrance and a double-hung window is located on the east façade. To the west of this projection is a gable-end structure with a medium pitch roof. This structure includes the original dining room, now kitchen. The east facade has a large, single-pane window, a door with a transom window above, and a round, porthole window. A paneled door is located on the north façade next to a tall, brick chimney which was used for the original kitchen (photo 10). Originally, there was another brick chimney on the east side of the gable, across from the existing chimney. Above the kitchen a shed roof addition built to accommodate the second upstairs bathroom. The portion extends out to west end of the original house. One small double-hung window is located on the north façade. On the west side of the kitchen is another gable-end structure which extends to the west. This portion has three, 6/6 double-hung sash windows located across the south façade. Another 6/6 is located on the west façade (photo 11). This room was extended to the north with a gable-front to include room for a two-car garage in 1922 (photo 12). A porch on the north façade extends out from the center of the original house and forms an L-shape around to the garage. Chamfered posts support the flat roof. Two small windows are located on the north façade of the west wing, one having been original.

Interior

The interior of the Havilah Beardsley Mansion features walnut, mahogany and cherry woodwork, decorative plaster ceiling medallions, one marble and one slate fireplace. Some of these features are very unique for a home of this period since materials had to be transported by river due to ^{the} fact that railroads had not been built through Elkhart yet. Another interesting feature is the frosted and etched glass on the interior doors with different designs giving clues about the uses of the room. Other features of the rooms include wide, crown and floor molding and ornate trim around windows and doors. Original narrow oak flooring has been carpeted in the parlor, central hall, and dining room. The main entrance of the Havilah Beardsley Mansion is a large, 12-foot arched doorway. The large double door

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features beveled glass with each leaf having a tear drop shape above in the arched section of the doorway. The exterior doors open into a vestibule that has encaustic tile floor of various colors including brown, blue, yellow and deep red. The geometric pattern consists of a wide border with diamond shape tiles. The floor design includes smaller square and diamond shapes set within larger diamond shape patterns (photo 13). The tile floor was probably not original to the house and may have been added during the 1870's. The woodwork is walnut. The vestibule includes a paneled cloak closet that was a later addition. A second set of rounded double doors has raised panels on the bottom and etched glass panels at the top of each door. Hanging flower baskets are etched into the glass (photo 14). Upon entering the central hall, a double doorway to the right leads into the parlor and a double doorway to the left leads into the dining room. A winding, open staircase to the left is made of five different kinds of woods, partially including cherry, walnut, and mahogany. The newel post has a square base on which sits a rounded post with panels that are burlled. Open stringer panels decorate the staircase. The panels are triangle shape moldings. The balusters have square bases and are hand-turned (photo 15, 16). To the rear of the central hall is a half-glass door that serves as a back entrance. A window is located on the east wall. A plaster ceiling medallion with leaf detail is located at the front of the central hall (photo 17).

Parlor

The parlor is thought to have originally been used as a music room. Double doors are recessed and have etched glass with lyres in each panel (photo 18). The woodwork is walnut. Doors and windows are ten feet in height, with the windows going to the floor. Features of the parlor include a white Italian marble fireplace (photo 19), and a built-in bookcase with shelving and three paneled doors providing storage across the bottom. A solid door to the right of the fireplace leads to the east wing. The ceiling in the music room is framed in plaster, believed to have been imported from Italy. The pattern consists of thirteen ornate ceiling medallions. The medallions are of three different sizes. Twelve smaller medallions are patterned around a large central medallion, each having its own design. (photos 20, 21)

East Wing

The east wing was added circa 1875. The room was built with ten-foot ceilings rather than 11.5-foot as in the remainder of the first floor. Once a large room, the wing has been used over the years as office space. The room is now divided into three smaller rooms to accommodate the current owner's counseling practice. An original fireplace in the first room is wood with carved floral details. Tile surrounds the fireplace (photo 22).

Dining Room

From the central hall through double doors opposite the double parlor doors is the original living room now dining room. The ornate woodwork in the dining room is cherry. In style it matches woodwork in the adjacent room and central hall (photo 23). The large double doors leading to the central hall are faced with cherry wood on the side to match the dining room and with walnut on the other side to match the woodwork in the hall. The doors have etched glass panels with an urn and floral motif (photo 24). A chair rail surrounds the perimeter of the room. The fireplace made of slate has a marble hearth

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(photo 25). The ten-foot windows are faced with cherry trim. A medallion and wide crown molding are features of the ceiling (photos 26). To the right of the fireplace is a door leading to the west wing. A solid panel door on the north wall leads to the original dining room now kitchen.

West Wing

The west wing was added shortly after the house was built to accommodate a larger family. The wing includes the master bedroom, bathroom and a large walk-in closet with built-in drawers. An access panel in the closet reveals an original window has been covered over. Features of the bedroom include a chair rail, ceiling medallion (photo 27) and crown molding. The woodwork around the windows and doors is the same as in the other rooms except that it has been painted. In the 1920's, the owners lowered the ceiling of the adjoining bathroom. In the 1940's owners remodeled the bathroom, adding modern fixtures. A small closet is located next to the shower.

Original Dining Room Now Kitchen

The ceiling medallion (photo 28) and the etched glass panels of the doors to this room have a motif of fruits, vegetables, and flowers indicating that it was probably the original dining room. The room was remodeled in the 1940's and includes cabinets with stainless steel double sink and counter tops built by Coppes, Inc. of Nappanee. A large window is located on the east wall and a casement window is located on the west wall above the kitchen sink. There were eight doors in this room alone. A door on the east side with a transom window provides access to the porch. Another door leads to a broom closet under the former back staircase which led to a room upstairs. A door on the north wall leads to a pantry-type closet. Inside the closet is a round window. Another door on the north wall leads to the basement, and another door on the west wall provides access to the original kitchen. A tall, paneled door leads to the dining room and a door with etched glass leads back out to the central hallway. The eighth door led to the back stairway which was closed when the cabinets were installed.

Original Kitchen/Utility

The original kitchen has been converted back to use as a kitchen/utility room. This room is part of a gable addition that extends off the kitchen to the west. Wainscoting was used in the room and an original cabinet remains on the north wall. Current owners built cabinets to match. A 6/6 double-hung window is located on the south wall. A door on the west wall leads to the garage. Another door on the north provides access to the back porch. The kitchen may have been larger than the present room. The wainscot partition separating the room from the garage may have been moved to make the kitchen smaller. The south portion of the garage was used for the kitchen and/or storage. Two windows on the south wall of the garage are the same as the 6/6 window in the kitchen. The storage room across the south end and the addition built on to it to the north combine to form the garage.

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Second Floor

The second floor includes three bedrooms, a small sitting room, and two bathrooms. Typical to many homes, the second floor of the Beardsley house is more simplistic in decoration than the first floor. The woodwork has been painted and features include a ceiling medallion in one of the bedrooms, pine flooring and crown molding. The central hall at the top of the staircase divides the second floor (photo 29). The east half includes a bedroom and adjoining bath. The bathroom was redecorated in green ceramic tile by previous owners in the 1940's. A door joins the bathroom to a large bedroom. The bedroom located on the southeast part of the house has a walk-in closet with built-in storage cabinets. The ceiling medallion matches the one in the downstairs master bedroom. A door in the bedroom leads to a central room. This small room has doors that provide access out to the hallway and also to the southwest bedroom. These three rooms located at the front of the house may have formed a suite for Dr. Beardsley and his wife. Features of the southwest bedroom include crown molding, wide floor molding, a painted wood floor and an added built-in armoire. Another bedroom at the northwest corner features natural, wide plank wood floors and has an adjoining bathroom that is part of the back addition.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Havilah Beardsley House at 102 West Beardsley Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana, is eligible for the National Register for both Criteria B and C for its association with Dr. Havilah Beardsley, founder of the city of Elkhart and for its period of construction and high artistic value that it possesses. Havilah Beardsley not only founded the city, he also made many important contributions to its early development. Beardsley and his family came to Elkhart County in 1830 and settled at the confluence of three rivers which was prime location for trade. He purchased a section of land that same year and platted the village of Elkhart in 1832. Realizing the potential of water power, Beardsley built several mills along the rivers and became a very successful entrepreneur. Today Beardsley is known as the "Father of Elkhart."

The home is also significant for its period of construction and high artistic value. The Beardsley House has the distinction of being the oldest existing house in Elkhart, built in 1848. It was the first brick house built in the village of Elkhart and is important as a reminder of the beginning of Elkhart's history. The Italianate style home combines classical details. The interior is highly decorative for a house of its period. Having been built before the railroads came through Elkhart, many materials were most likely transported via the St. Joseph River.

Historical Background and Significance

The Indian Treaty of 1821 marks the beginning of Elkhart's history. From the land that was ceded to the Indians, reservations were made to Pierre Moran, a Potawatomi Chief, for one section of land, and to his children, two sections of land. After the survey of Elkhart County in 1829 and 1830, Moran's land was designated as Section Five. This section, now the business district in Elkhart, was highly sought after. In 1827 Richard Godfrey, son of Gabriel Godfrey, witness to the 1821 treaty, secured a deed from Moran for his land. Due to the fact that the land had not been surveyed yet and Godfrey never paid Moran, he was unable to get the President's approval. In 1831 Moran executed another deed, this time to Havilah Beardsley. President Andrew Jackson approved the deed on January 13, 1832. Beardsley paid Moran \$1500.00 for the section which included 570 acres, making him the first white land owner in what is now the city of Elkhart.

Havilah Beardsley was born on April 1, 1795 in New Fairfield, Connecticut. He was the fifth of fourteen children born to Elijah and Sally Hubbell Beardsley. As a young child, Havilah and his family moved to Ohio. At the age of 21, he began studying medicine in Urbana, Ohio. He graduated from the Medical Department of Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky in 1825, after which he practiced medicine in Greenfield, Ohio for a few years. Before graduating, Havilah married Rachel Calhoun in 1823. Rachel was originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. After several years of practicing medicine in Ohio, Beardsley wished to abandon the medical field. In 1830, hearing favorable reports of St. Joseph County, Beardsley and his family traveled west on horseback through northern Indiana and as far as Chicago. Upon returning, Beardsley settled temporarily in Pulaski, a small settlement on the north side of the St. Joseph

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River in Elkhart County, where a post office had been established. After Beardsley purchased Section Five, he set up his rival town south of the river. He hired George Crawford to plat the village of Elkhart. Crawford was an earlier settler in the area who had been hired by the United States to survey the islands in the St. Joseph River. He was also employed to survey and to open the highway from Fort Wayne to South Bend. The original plat included 51 lots. In 1839, the post office was relocated and the name was changed to Elkhart. Pulaski was never platted as a village.

Dr. Beardsley was never successful in abandoning his medicine practice. Due to the fact there were no physicians in the region, he found it impossible to ignore those who required his services. Beardsley focused on other interests while continuing to care for those in need. The confluence of three rivers, the Elkhart, St. Joseph and Christiana Creek provided much needed water power and Beardsley capitalized on it. He built a saw mill in 1831 and in 1840 he constructed a dam at Christiana Creek. A canal was dug to the St. Joseph River and was divided in two branches, one for a flour mill and the other for a paper mill. When the dam and raceways were built, headgates were installed to regulate the flow of water. Soon after the dam and raceways were built, Beardsley constructed a flour mill along the St. Joseph River. The mill was very picturesque and was used as a scene for postcards and was also painted on the curtain backdrop of the Bucklen Theatre in Elkhart. The flour mill continued in operation for sixty years. Beardsley then built another mill along Christiana Creek for the purpose of carding wool and flax. In 1846 he built a paper mill on the bank of the St. Joseph River. It is said that this was the second paper mill built in the State of Indiana. The paper mill was operated by the Beardsley family until 1890. In 1848 Beardsley had his home built. This was the first brick residence built in the village of Elkhart. He and his family lived in a log house when they finally arrived in the area. They shared the log house with George Crawford. They later occupied a frame house until they built their brick residence.

By 1849 Elkhart was comprised of the original plat of the village and three additions, two of which were platted by Beardsley; Beardsley's First Addition and the Second South and Western Addition. The original plat and additions now totaled 319 lots. A paragraph from Chamberlain's Indiana Gazetteer in 1849-50 stated, "Elkhart, a flourishing town in the county of the same name, situated at the junction of Elkhart and St. Joseph rivers, ten miles northwest of Goshen. It contains a very valuable merchant mill, two saw mills, a distillery, an oil mill, drug store, one grocery, two taverns, and about 120 houses and 500 inhabitants. Most of the produce of the county is shipped here, and town will ultimately be an important one. Dr. H. Beardsley was the proprietor."

Beardsley was also interested in procuring the railroad in Elkhart. In 1838, a railroad was planned called the Buffalo & Mississippi. It was to run from Buffalo to an undesignated point on the Mississippi River. Each town was anxious to attract the railroad, but in those days the capital had to be procured from local sources. Dr. Beardsley wanting the railroad in Elkhart, executed to the company a mortgage for \$6,600 covering the north half of section five. Unfortunately, the track was never laid and the first train did not come to Elkhart until 1851. Beardsley remained involved in the railroad serving as director of the Northern Indiana Railroad from 1850 to 1855. In 1852 the railroad company purchased a tract of land from Beardsley on which there was later built a passenger station, baggage house and yardmaster's office on

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the north side of the tracks and a freight depot and other buildings on the south side. Havilah Beardsley's contributions to the early development of Elkhart earned him the name "Father of Elkhart." His entrepreneurial spirit laid the foundation for a thriving city. Many years after his death, a monument was erected to honor him. A larger than life-size bronze statue of Beardsley located on the corner of Beardsley Avenue and Riverside Drive was presented to the city of Elkhart by Beardsley's nephew in 1914. About 3,000 people attended the memorial honoring the city's founder. The memorial was re-dedicated in June 1998 and the statue and fountain were restored. The memorial was also designated as a single-site historic site by the Elkhart Historical and Cultural Preservation Commission.

Architectural Significance

The Havilah Beardsley House is also eligible for the National Register under Criteria C for its period of construction and the interior's high artistic value. The solid, double-brick constructed house was the first brick residence built in the village of Elkhart and remains today as the oldest existing house in the city. Built in 1848 the house is an early example of the Italianate style. The first Italianate houses in the United States were built in the late 1830's and the style was popularized by pattern books of Andrew Jackson Downing in the 1840's and 50's. Most surviving examples are from the period 1855 - 80 and earlier examples like the Beardsley House are rare. The two-story Italianate style home combines classical details. Windows and doors are arranged symmetrically. Features of the house include tall, narrow, fully arched windows that are recessed, paired scroll sawn brackets and dentils at the eaves, and a full-length front porch with fluted columns and Ionic capitals. The structure was rated "Outstanding" in the Indiana Sites and Structures Inventory for Elkhart County.

The interior of this pre-Civil War house is highly decorated in materials such as marble, plaster, slate, etched glass, and ornate woodwork. The interior is significant because it possesses high artistic value for a house of its period especially in northern Indiana. The first floor ceilings are 11.5 foot high and doors and windows are 10 feet in height. Plaster ceiling medallions are located in most every room on both the first and second floors. The ceiling of the parlor is unique in that several smaller medallions are arranged in a pattern around a large, central medallion. The central staircase is open and is beautifully crafted of walnut, mahogany and cherry. Fireplace mantles are made of marble and slate. Cherry, walnut, and mahogany are used for doors, window trim and the floor molding. Decorative etched glass panels in the doors have different designs possibly indicating the original use of the rooms, for example the doors leading to the parlor have lyres etched into the glass indicating that it may have been a music room. The interior is highly decorative for a house of its period considering many of the materials were most likely shipped by riverboats since railroads had not arrived in Elkhart until 1851. The house is currently decorated with antique furniture, light fixtures and period wallcoverings.

After Beardsley's death in 1856, Rachel continued to live in the house until her death in 1890. The house remained in the Beardsley Trust until 1913 when it was purchased by John N. Collins. Subsequent owners were Albert A. Gordon who purchased the house in 1917, Dr. B.F. Kuhn in 1920, Dr. Arthur W. Kistner in 1941, Dr. and Mrs. A.B. Smith in 1952, and current owners George and Darlene Adkins in 1981. The east wing of the house has been used as a doctor's office for many of the owners. Over the years, the

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house has undergone a few changes, but retains much of its integrity. Changes on the exterior include two wings which were added to each end of the house. The west wing was added shortly after the house was built and the east wing was added circa 1875. The original brick was covered with aluminum siding in the 1950's and is now in the process of being removed by the current owners. In 1998, the Elkhart Historical and Cultural Preservation Commission held their annual "Great Unveiling" where volunteers helped to remove the siding on the front of the house below the porch. When taking off siding from the porch, details show that there may have been brackets supporting the overhanging roof. A band of dentils was also re-created to match the eaves on the main house. The next phase will be removing the siding on both wings. The porch has also undergone changes. Originally the front porch was smaller and was replaced by a large porch across the front in the late 1800's. The porch was changed again in the 1950's when the wooden deck was replaced by a concrete deck due to termite damage. At that time the porch railings and spindles were removed and discarded. Six columns and half-columns with flower urns were maintained. In 1994 the current owners replaced the cement deck with wood. They also completely restored all six columns and five capitals. They replaced one capital and reinstalled all six columns. Plans are to reproduce the railings and spindles.

Although the house has undergone some changes over the years, it still retains a great deal of integrity and is a wonderful example of pre-Civil War architecture. The house has been very well maintained over the years and serves as a "project house" for current owners who continue to restore the home. The Beardsley House has always served as a community landmark and continues to be an important reminder of the beginning of Elkhart's history.

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Verbal Boundary Description

A part of Lot Number One (1) as the said lot is known and designated on the recorded Plat of SUBDIVISION OF LOT 207 BEARDSLEY'S FOURTH ADDITION TO THE CITY OF ELKHART, INDIANA; said Plat being recorded in Deed Record 108, at page 38, in the Office of the Recorder of Elkhart County, Indiana, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the southeast corner of said Lot number One (1) ; thence northwardly along the east line of said Lot to a point seventy-one (71) feet south of the northeast corner of said lot; thence westwardly to a point on the west line of said lot which point is seventy-one feet south of the northwest corner of said lot; thence southwardly along the west line of said lot to the southwest corner thereof; thence eastwardly along the south line of said lot, One Hundred thirty-two and seven Hundredths (132.07) feet to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the nominated property known as the Havilah Beardsley House which is historically associated with Dr. Havilah Beardsley.

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Photographs

The following information is the same for all of the photographs:

**Beardsley, Havilah D., Elkhart, Indiana
George Adkins, photographer
January 27, 1999, date of photographs**

1. Exterior, front façade; camera facing north
2. Exterior, front façade detail- front door; camera facing north
3. Exterior, front façade detail- porch; camera facing southwest
4. Exterior, front façade detail- porch; camera facing east
5. Exterior, front façade detail- porch; camera facing northwest
6. Exterior, front façade detail-porch; camera facing northwest
7. Exterior, front façade detail-second-story entablature; camera facing north
8. Exterior, south and east elevation; camera facing northwest
9. Exterior, south and west elevation; camera facing northeast
10. Exterior, east elevation; camera facing west
11. Exterior, west elevation detail- addition; camera facing northeast
12. Exterior, north elevation; camera facing south
13. Interior, first floor vestibule detail- mosaic tile floor
14. Interior, first floor, central hallway; camera facing south
15. Interior, first floor, central hallway detail-staircase; camera facing west
16. Interior, first floor, central hallway detail-staircase; camera facing north